

Appln No. 10/820,480
Amdt date January 5, 2007
Reply to Office action of September 5, 2006

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11 line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

Disposed over the surface of the porous tip electrode is a thin metal coating **84**, as depicted in **FIG. 10**. The metal coating **84** serves to impart improved structural integrity to the porous tip electrode **36** while also serving as an electrode for distributing radio-frequency energy to the target tissue. The metal coating also prevents substantial contact of the non-conductive porous material of the tip electrode with the target tissue. The metal coating **84** can be made of any conductive metal, e.g. platinum or gold. Preferably, the metal coating **84** is made of a platinum-iridium alloy, e.g. 90% Platinum/10% Iridium, applied to the surface of the porous tip electrode **36** by a deposition process impregnating a thin layer of platinum-iridium alloy onto the porous surface of the tip electrode **36**. The thickness of the metal coating **84** may vary as desired, but is sufficiently thin to maintain a porous electrode surface, and sufficiently thick to maintain a conductive surface. For example, the metal coating **84** may have a thickness ranging from 0.2 μm to about 2 μm . Preferably, as shown in **FIG. 10**, the metal coating **84** is webbed or otherwise porous with openings **85** in the metal coating **84** through which irrigation fluids can pass.